

Message Text

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22-11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /037 W

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R 020953Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6264

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, TH

SUBJ: THAILAND'S "GENERAL STRIKE"

REF: A) 75 BANGKOK 26894, B) 75 BANGKOK 27005, C) 75 BANGKOK 23339

1. THAILAND'S "GENERAL STRIKE" CAN BEST BE DESCRIBED AS CONFUSED. BECAUSE LABOR LEADERS HAVE VOWED NOT TO REPEAT NOT TO DISRUPT PUBLIC SERVICES AND NOT REPEAT NOT TO HOLD A PUBLIC RALLY, THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER THE STRIKE IS IN FACT TAKING PLACE. BECAUSE OF HOLIDAY ON NEW YEAR'S DAY, NO NEWSPAPERS WERE PUBLISHED ON FRIDAY, ADDING TO THE CONFUSION.

2. UNION LEADERS AND RTG OFFICIALS ARE MEETING TODAY TO PLAN THEIR NEXT MOVES. THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN STEPS TO CONTROL ACCESS TO PUBLIC UTILITY PLANTS AND REPORTEDLY HAS READIED POLICE AND MILITARY TO OPERATE THE SERVICES IF NECESSARY. WHILE WORKERS AT SOME OF THE GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES, NOTABLY DOCK WORKERS AND MUNICIPAL ELECTRICAL AUTHORITY EMPLOYEES, HAVE NOT REPORTED FOR WORK, PRIVATE INDUSTRY APPEARS UNAFFECTED. LEADERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THAI LABOR (REF. C), COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF TEXTILE WORKERS UNIONS, HAS TAKEN A WAIT AND SEE ATTITUDE.

3. IN A LENGTHY NEW YEAR'S EVENING RADIO AND TELEVISION ADDRESS, PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT DETAILED THE ECONOMICS OF RICE PRODUCTION IN AN EFFORT WIN PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR HIS

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STAND ON INCREASED RICE PRICES.

4. COMMENT: THE WEEK END WILL PROVIDE A CHANCE FOR ALL PARTIES
TO ASSESS THEIR POSITIONS AND ACT ACCORDINGLY. BOTH LABOR AND
THE RTG WILL BE ACTIVELY SEEKING SUPPORT OVER THE NEXT TWO
DAYS.
MASTERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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